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28 August 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Communist China - USSR: [The recently concluded Chinese central committee plenum proposed that Premier Chou En-lai or a Chinese Communist leader of equal rank fly to the USSR to discuss with Khrushchev his forthcoming talks with President Eisenhower,]

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NO

[the Chinese Communists are "not enthusiastic" about the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange and are trying to protect their interests. There is no evidence that any top Chinese leader has gone to the USSR since the plenum ended on 16 August, although there has been no information on the whereabouts of Mao Tse-tung and 11 other politburo members since that date.]

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[Large rectangular redacted area]

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[Redacted box]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

OK

India: The resignation under fire on 22 August of Indian Food Minister Jain and the assignment of the Food Ministry as an additional duty to Transportation Minister S. K. Patil, one of India's ablest administrators, underlines the top priority with which the Indian Government views the problem of increasing food production. India may reach its Second Five-Year-Plan goal of 81,800,000 metric tons of food grains by 1960-61, but the proposed increase to 111,800,000 tons during the third-plan period (1961-66) will require a maximum effort. Pro-Western Patil is noted for his political organizing ability and has probably been appointed to provide inspiration as well as administrative ability to the program.

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Japan-Korea: [The government-inspired demonstrations in front of the American Embassy in Seoul during the past three days are aimed at securing US support for blocking the repatriation of Koreans in Japan to North Korea. Meanwhile, the talks in Tokyo between Japan and South Korea, which Korean officials acknowledge have the primary purpose of disrupting the repatriation, have made no headway. Relations have been further worsened by Seoul's resumption of seizures of Japanese fishing craft.]

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III. THE WEST

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France-Algeria: []

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[] De Gaulle's staff has now concluded that a military solution in Algeria is impossible; a political solution is being sought. []

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[] De Gaulle will obtain the backing of the military for a political solution, but [] the army will react strongly.

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[] if De Gaulle gains army and US support for his plans, he will appeal anew on 15 September--opening date for the UN General Assembly--for a cease-fire and propose a meeting of Algerian representatives, including the rebels, to plan Algeria's future status. Consideration of eventual independence would not be precluded. []

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IV. SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

(Available during the preceding week)

Main Currents in the Arab World. NIE 30-59. 19 Aug 59.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Possible Visit of Chinese Communist Leader to Khrushchev

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[redacted] Premier Chou En-lai or a party leader of "equal rank" would fly to the USSR to discuss with Khrushchev his forthcoming talks with President Eisenhower. [redacted]

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[redacted] a proposal to this effect was made at the recently concluded central committee plenum. The Chinese Communists are "not enthusiastic" about the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange, [redacted] and are trying to ensure that their interests will be protected. Peiping "will do nothing," however, to impede the visits.]

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[While a recent press report that Mao Tse-tung has gone to the USSR is unconfirmed, the whereabouts of Mao and 11 other politburo members is still unknown.]

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[redacted] the Chinese are apprehensive that friendlier US-USSR relations will prove detrimental to their interests, which they view as inconsistent with the maintenance of the status quo in the Far East. On the Taiwan and Laotian issues, the Chinese have directed their principal invective against the US as the "aggressor." They have asked foreign visitors to take a tough line against the "US imperialists" when they return home.]

[The Chinese Communist leaders may be less than enthusiastic about the implications the Eisenhower-Khrushchev talks could have for their general policy of maintaining a degree of tension with the US. At a time when bloc commentary--despite probable reservations among certain satellite leaders--was praising the forthcoming visits without significant qualification, Foreign Minister Chen Yi on 15 August called on the bloc to "carry on an unrelenting struggle" to defeat the policy of "war and aggression by imperialism."]

[In reprinting Chen's statement, Pravda omitted these hostile remarks, leaving Chen's endorsement of the Eisenhower-Khrushchev]

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[visits more in line with Soviet comment. Peiping probably now feels the need to avoid further public statements which might significantly differ from the tone of bloc commentary and thereby suggest a lack of Sino-Soviet unity on a major international development. Therefore, any announcement of a visit by a top Chinese leader would portray it as another gesture of Sino-Soviet solidarity.]

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New Food and Agriculture Minister Appointed in India

Despite major increases in food production during the First and Second Five-Year Plan periods--from about 55,000,000 metric tons prior to 1951 to over 74,000,000 tons in 1958-59--population growth and food supply continue to be problems of top-priority concern to the Indian Government. This fact was re-emphasized when Food Minister Jain was dismissed on 24 August and his ministry taken over by pro-Western Transportation Minister S. K. Patil, who is noted for his organizational ability and is generally recognized in India as a competent trouble shooter. He is sometimes mentioned as a potential successor to Nehru.

Jain resigned reportedly under criticism for his failure to bring down food prices--a politically hot issue in India. In his farewell speech in Parliament, Jain indicated that his major difficulty had been lack of machinery to enforce controls under a new system of state trading.

The appointment of an individual with conservative leanings, who is probably unsympathetic to Nehru's aim of developing Indian agriculture through the expansion of cooperative farming, suggests that the goal of increased food production has been given higher priority than the method by which it is to be achieved. In any case, Patil's appointment will probably result in minimal expansion of true cooperative farming in India, though he will probably find it politically expedient to advance the cause of cooperative credit and marketing systems. Patil's appointment may also indicate recognition that without fulfillment of second-plan goals in food production, the Congress party's majority could be weakened in the national elections of early 1962.

Indian food production during the Second Five-Year Plan period (1951-56) was originally scheduled to rise from 66,300,000 metric tons to 76,200,000 tons. Revised population growth estimates forced the government to raise the target to 81,800,000 tons. Targets for the Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66) now run as high as 111,800,000 metric tons, achievement of which will require favorable weather and a maximum organizational effort.

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Status of Japanese - South Korean Relations

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[For three days crowds, obviously government inspired, have been demonstrating before the American Embassy in Seoul, demanding that the United States force the Japanese to cancel the repatriation of Koreans in Japan to North Korea. The demonstrations appear to have increased in intensity, and on 27 August attempts were made to force the embassy gates. The embassy has repeatedly protested to the appropriate authorities, and the police appear to have orders to prevent forceful entry, but their interference otherwise has been halfhearted and ineffective. While there have been many demonstrations protesting Japan's repatriation program, these are the first specifically staged for the embassy since the beginning of the repatriation dispute.]

[Meanwhile, the recently resumed negotiations in Tokyo for the normalization of relations between Japan and South Korea have made little if any progress. The Korean delegation insists on giving the legal status of Korean residents in Japan priority over the numerous other issues. The Japanese are willing to discuss this issue provided Seoul will approve an immediate exchange of Japanese fishermen held in South Korea and Koreans detained in Japan. The South Korean chief delegate has acknowledged that his government is primarily concerned with using the talks to block repatriation to North Korea.]

[Seoul has also resumed seizures of Japanese fishing boats, ostensibly in retaliation for the dispatch by Japanese fishing interests of two unarmed patrol craft to the Rhee line.]

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III. THE WEST

De Gaulle's Staff Concludes Military Victory in Algeria
Is Impossible

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[De Gaulle's staff has concluded that a military victory in Algeria is impossible and Paris now is aiming at a political solution.]

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[if De Gaulle obtains army support and if President Eisenhower agrees to support France in the UN debate, De Gaulle on 15 September will publicly restate the need for a cease-fire and propose a meeting of French and Algerian representatives to plan the future status of Algeria. Consideration of eventual independence for Algeria would reportedly not be precluded, provided free elections at a future date clearly show this to be the majority will.]

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[the purpose of De Gaulle's current trip to Algeria is to win the army over to the idea of a political solution. The head of the American section in the French Foreign Ministry told embassy officials on 24 August that De Gaulle plans to talk with officers of all ranks, particularly with respect to a possible nonmilitary solution.]

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[De Gaulle is planning to propose a solution within the framework of the French Community.]

[Military leaders have thus far vehemently resisted any suggestion that the army forego a military "victory." Lately, however, there is evidence that even some military circles in Algeria feel a military victory is not possible.]

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De Gaulle will obtain military backing, but [the army will react strongly against any proposed political solution. De Gaulle is reported by the French ambassador to Washington to have said recently, "I think I now have the military with me!"]

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